

RADICAL U.S. GROUP LINKED TO ASSASSINATION OF C.I.A. OFFICIAL

THE PINK SHEET has learned that a left-wing publication named "Counter-Spy" may be partially responsible for the assassination on December 23 of RICHARD WELCH, the CIA station chief in Greece. WELCH's CIA status in Greece was supposedly a secret, but shortly before his death he was listed by Counter-Spy magazine as previously having been the CIA's top man in Peru.

Counter-Spy is published by "The Fifth Estate," a radical anti-CIA group which was first exposed by THE PINK SHEET in July 1974 (see Issue #83). In Issue #113 -- just 3 months ago -- I revealed that the Fifth Estate "is working with turncoat ex-CIA agent PHILIP AGEE in an effort to undermine (if not destroy) the effectiveness of U.S. intelligence activities." AGEE, who has been cooperating with the Communists since defecting from the CIA, undoubtedly was the source for the Counter-Spy mention. He had been a CIA operative in Latin America and knew the names of many other CIA agents there, including RICHARD WELCH who worked there before going to Greece recently.

The precise identity and organizational ties of the 3 gunmen who murdered WELCH is not known. Probably, they were anti-American revolutionaries who were given an appropriate target when Counter-Spy magazine "identified" RICHARD WELCH as a CIA agent, and this identification was republished in a Greek newspaper.

This episode is a tragic reminder of a very basic truth: There are individuals and organizations in this country whose activities are aiding the enemies of the U.S. Are we to be impotent against such fifth columnists in our midst? Please write to your Congressman and Senators and ask what they propose to do about this increasingly dangerous problem. Instead of harming our internal security agencies, Senator FRANK CHURCH and his colleagues should be investigating outfits like the Fifth Estate.